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CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS
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fact sheet

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1989

In 1989, **1261**, or **16.9%**, of the 7461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 262, or 13.1%, of the 1995 state senate seats and 999, or 18.3%, of the 5466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1
1983	991	13.3
1985	1103	14.8
1987	1170	15.7
1989	**1261**	**16.9**

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 1989 is:

	Total Legislatures		State Senates		State Houses	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	737	58.4	156	59.3	581	58.2
Republicans	514	40.8	96	36.6	418	41.8
Nonpartisans*	10	0.8	10	3.8	---	----
Total	1261		262		999	

The ten states with the **highest** percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
New Hampshire	32.1	Washington	28.6
Maine	30.7	Wisconsin	26.5
Vermont	30.6	Kansas	25.5
Arizona	30.0	Idaho	24.6
Colorado	29.0	Hawaii	23.7

The ten states with the **lowest** percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Louisiana	2.1	Arkansas	7.4
Kentucky	5.1	Oklahoma	8.7
Alabama	5.7	South Carolina	8.8
Mississippi	5.8	Tennessee	9.1
Pennsylvania	6.7	New Jersey	9.2

Every state has at least three women in its state house, and only one state (Louisiana) has no women in its state senate.

Two women are **speakers of houses** in 1989: Representative Jane Hull (R-AZ) and Representative Vera Katz (D-OR).

The **first** woman to serve in a state legislature was Martha Hughes Canon; she was elected to the Utah state senate in 1896.

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*The Nebraska Legislature is unicameral; legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

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STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE D	SENATE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE D	HOUSE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
AL	48	0	1	1/35	7	0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	14	1	3	4/20	5	4	9/ 40	13/ 60	21.7
AZ	4	2	3	5/30	9	13	22/ 60	27/ 90	30.0
AR	45	2	0	2/35	7	1	8/100	10/135	7.4
CA	29	2	2	4/40	8	6	14/ 80	18/120	15.0
CO	5	2	5	7/35	9	13	22/ 65	29/100	29.0
CT	12	4	3	7/36	19	15	34/151	41/187	21.9
DE	26	2	2	4/21	2	4	6/ 41	10/ 62	16.1
FL	24	7	4	11/40	8	8	16/120	27/160	16.9
GA	39	1	1	2/56	18	4	22/180	24/236	10.2
HI	10	4	3	7/25	9	2	11/ 51	18/ 76	23.7
ID	9	6	3	9/42	5	17	22/ 84	31/126	24.6
IL	19	6	6	12/59	9	12	21/118	33/177	18.6
IN	33	6	5	11/50	5	6	11/100	22/150	14.7
IA	25	3	3	6/50	13	6	19/100	25/150	16.7
KS	8	5	4	9/40	16	17	33/125	42/165	25.5
KY	49	1	0	1/38	3	3	6/100	7/138	5.1
LA	50	0	0	0/39	3	0	3/105	3/144	2.1
ME	2	5	5	10/35	28	19	47/151	57/186	30.7
MD	13	6	0	6/47	31	4	35/141	41/188	21.8
MA	23	4	1	5/40	22	8	30/160	35/200	17.5
MI	30	1	1	2/38	12	8	20/110	22/148	14.9
MN	20	6	4	10/67	17	10	27/134	37/201	18.4
MS	47	2	1	3/52	7	0	7/122	10/174	5.8
MO	31	1	1	2/34	19	8	27/163	29/197	14.7
MT	21	5	1	6/50	16	5	21/100	27/150	18.0
NE	16	NONPARTISAN		10/49		UNICAMERAL		10/ 49	20.4
NV	15	1	2	3/21	8	2	10/ 42	13/ 63	20.6
NH	1	2	4	6/24	48	82	130/400	136/424	32.1
NJ	41	2	1	3/40	2	6	8/ 80	11/120	9.2
NM	34	3	1	4/42	5	6	11/ 70	15/112	13.4
NY	37	5	1	6/61	15	3	18/150	24/211	11.4
NC	32	3	1	4/50	12	9	21/120	25/170	14.7
ND	28	3	2	5/53	10	9	19/106	24/159	15.1
OH	35	1	2	3/33	10	3	13/ 99	16/132	12.1
OK	44	5	1	6/48	6	1	7/101	13/149	8.7
OR	17	6	1	7/30	6	5	11/ 60	18/ 90	20.0
PA	46	2	0	2/50	7	8	15/203	17/253	6.7
RI	27	5	4	9/50	11	3	14/100	23/150	15.3
SC	43	1	1	2/46	10	3	13/124	15/170	8.8
SD	18	6	1	7/35	6	7	13/ 70	20/105	19.1
TN	42	1	1	2/33	4	6	10/ 99	12/132	9.1
TX	38	2	1	3/31	11	5	16/150	19/181	10.5
UT	36	1	0	1/29	5	6	11/ 75	12/104	11.5
VT	3	6	0	6/30	26	23	49/150	55/180	30.6
VA	40	2	1	3/40	9	2	11/100	14/140	10.0
WA	6	5	5	10/49	22	10	32/ 98	42/147	28.6
WV	22	5	1	6/34	16	2	18/100	24/134	17.9
WI	7	1	3	4/33	18	13	31/ 99	35/132	26.5
WY	11	4	0	4/30	7	11	18/ 64	22/ 94	23.4
TOTALS		156	96	262/1995	581	418	999/5466	1261/7461	16.9

(10 nonpartisans)

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